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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/840,503	04/23/2001	Edwin J. Iwanowicz	QA231 NP	4455

23914 7590 06/24/2002

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EXAMINER

LIU, HONG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1624

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/840,503

Applicant(s)
Iwanowicz et al.

Examiner
Hong Liu

Art Unit
1624



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 1-29 are subject to restriction and/or election requirements.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-9, drawn to a method of using the compounds of formula I to treat inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase associated disorders, classified in class 514, subclass depending on the nature of the X variables.
 - II. Claims 10-23, drawn to the compounds of formula I wherein X1 is C(O), X3 is NH, X2 and X4-X6 are carbon atoms, classified in class 546, subclass 152.
 - III. Claims 10-23, drawn to the compounds of formula I wherein X1 is SO or SO2, X3 is NH, X2 and X4-X6 are carbon atoms, classified in class 544, subclass 56.
 - IV. Claims 10-23, drawn to the compounds not included in Groups I and II, classified in classes and subclasses depending on the nature of the X variables..
 - V. Claims 24-29, drawn to a method of treating inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase associated disorders with the compounds of formula I and another agent, classified in classes and subclasses to be determined by the nature of the other agent.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Groups II-IV are directed to structurally dissimilar compounds such that the variable core created by varying the definitions of the formula do not belong to a recognized class of chemical

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compounds in the art, and references anticipating one invention would not render obvious the others, for example, quinoline is different from benzothiazine. Thus, separate searches in the literature as well as in the U.S. Patent Clarification System would be required. Each group's compounds are made and used independently of each other and could support separate patents. The compounds differ significantly in chemical structures. One skilled in the art would not consider such diverse structures as functional equivalents of each other. The mere fact that there is a single similarity is not in itself a significant reason to render the whole embodiment obvious.

Inventions I and V and II-IV are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case more than one use exists for the compounds as is evidence by many being claimed herein. Additionally, compounds of I embraced in V may be old or obvious when separately employed but may be patentable due to superior, or synergistic properties not present for the individual compounds of I. Within group V there is more than one invention as the claims embrace multiple combinations which require independent searches and which are not art-recognized equivalents in the art.

A telephone call was made to Ms. Maureen O'Brien on 6/14/02 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made

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Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Tentative election of a single species with the elected group is further required.

2. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Hong Liu whose telephone number is (703) 306-5814. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by the phone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mukund Shah can be reached at (703) 308-4716. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 308-4734 for "unofficial" purposes and the actual number for **official** business is (703) 308-4556. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose number is (703) 308-1235.

hl
June 20, 2002


Mukund Shah
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1624